

MEMBERS OF THE JUNEAU COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

JUNEAU COUNTY PARKS ANNUAL REPORT

We submit for your information and approval, a report on the activities and progress of the Juneau County Parks system for the year 2009.

CAMPING

Using 4 campers per unit as an average, the 10,466 camping days paid for at Castle Rock Park would indicate that an estimated 41,864 campers visited the park in 2009. In addition, there was \$8,906.20 collected in reservation fees, this was more than \$600 over the 2008 collection.

There were 4100 camping days paid for at Wilderness Park for an estimated 16,400 campers in 2009. In addition there was \$4,003.85 collected in reservation fees, this was also more than \$600 over the 2008 collection.

DAY USE

Castle Rock took in \$33,360.20 in day use fees, an increase of roughly \$3,500 over the previous year. Day use fees are currently \$5.00 per day and a season pass is \$20.00 per year.

Shelter usage at the Castle Rock Park shows that weekends were reserved over 75% of the weekend dates available with a waiting list for most weekends.

Wilderness Park took in \$12,075.54 in use fees, an increase of nearly \$1,700 over the previous year.

The shelter at Wilderness Park was reserved 25% of the weekend dates available and experienced use most of the other weekends.

Keep in mind that when an individual purchases a season use pass for a vehicle, there is no limit to the number of times he/she can visit the county parks for that year or how many people may be in the vehicle.

CONCESSIONS

In 2009 gross revenues from the sale of concessions amounted to \$11,348.44 at Castle Rock which was \$5,275.28 over the actual expenditures for the purchase of concession items.

Wilderness Park's gross revenue from the sale of concessions amounted to \$7,077.77, which was \$2,909.34 over the actual expenditures for the purchase of concession items.

ELECTRICAL

Electrical costs for the 2009 season at Castle Rock were \$12,448.02, which includes the cost of the park operations in addition to camper use. Revenue received was \$21,877.61 from electrical hook-up fees.

Electrical costs for the 2009 season at Wilderness Park were \$9,055.18, which includes the cost of the park operations in addition to camper use. \$12,508.89 in revenue was received from electrical hook-up fees.

The gross amount of electrical revenue at Castle Rock was \$9,429.59 more than the actual cost of electrical services, even though other electrical usage such as security lights, concession machines, office and shop lighting were also paid for. Wilderness Park electrical revenue was \$3,453.71 more than the actual cost of the electrical service. The electrical usage includes security lights, concession machines, office, shop and the caretaker's house.

SHOWERS

There was \$5,102.11 taken in for showers at Castle Rock, excluding sales tax.

There was \$1,716.36 taken in for showers at Wilderness Park, excluding sales tax.

TOTAL REVENUE

Total revenue taken in at Castle Rock Park was \$197,344.10, which was an increase of \$4,975.79 from 2008.

Credit cards accounted for 73% of the payments received.

The total revenue taken in at Wilderness Park was \$89,425.24, which was an increase of \$6,903.40 from 2008.

Credit cards accounted for 61% of the payments in 2009.

A total of \$286,769.30 excluding sales tax was received from both parks, which is an increase of 4% or \$11,879.19.

PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

A project to construct a new handicap accessible fishing pier at Castle Rock Park was postponed as cost share funding from a Federal program was frozen in 2009. The project is available to be revisited in 2010 should Federal funding be issued.

The final phase of a vital drainage project was completed in the spring of 2009 at Castle Rock Park. This project is expected to improve storm water drainage, reduce the presence of standing water, prevent erosion of the beach, and prevent park closures due to severe rain events.

Castle Rock and Wilderness Park shower buildings both received new paper towel and hand soap dispensers free of charge from a vendor.

JUNEAU COUNTY FORESTRY ANNUAL REPORT

In 2009 a total of ten timber sales were set up. At the March 10, 2009 bid opening all of the sales sold for approximately \$316,213.30.

The active timber sales on the County Forest produced revenue of \$276,457.78 during 2009. The active timber sales on Community Forest produced revenue of \$29,293.93 during 2009. Total income generated by the timber sales was \$305,751.70.

We sold a total of 67 wood cutting permits to the public for County Forest and Community Forest in 2009 for an income of \$832.84.

More than a dozen sites and several miles of County Forest trails were inspected and cleared of refrigerators, ranges, scrap metal, and old tires. Illegal dumping continues to be a periodic problem on County Forest Lands and should lessen as more and more sites are picked up and signed.

FOREST PLANTING AND REGENERATION

Pine seeding

In order to assure that jack pine is maintained as a component of the Juneau County Forest, the Forestry Department has been direct seeding sites following harvest as a means to enhance jack pine regeneration. Jack Pine is a beneficial species for wildlife, it grows moderately fast, and can tolerate dry nutrient poor sites. In 2009, approximately 30 acres of harvested lands were re-seeded back to jack pine following harvest.

The County re-seeds jack pine with the use of a seeder bomb that dispenses jack pine seed when being pulled behind a John Deere 850 dozer attached with a Fesco V-plow. The operation has an estimated cost of \$95.00 dollars per acre. The county receives the jack pine free of charge from the DNR Wildlife program.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Wisconsin Bow Hunters held their annual shoot at Kennedy Park with excellent weather and a large turnout. The organization is very pleased with the facility and has a good working relationship with the county. Attendance reaches over 10,000 people to utilize the three-day shoot.

During the spring and summer, Juneau County monitors the Karner Blue Butterfly (KBB) using the criteria developed by the HCP partners and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The county had 30 acres to monitor under various levels of intensity. Some of the work entailed determining where wild lupine was present. Some of the work required that the butterflies be counted to determine population levels. County personnel along with DNR staff from the Necedah Ranger Station completed the bulk of the monitoring in the late spring and mid-summer months.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

SPECIAL USE LANDS

These are lands that are primarily used for outdoor recreation.

All the Finley walking trails were mowed in the fall to benefit the many hunting enthusiasts that live and travel to Juneau to enjoy our public lands and trail system.

KENNEDY PARK

Kennedy Park located in the Town of Clearfield, comprising of 200 acres on the Lemonweir River, is used for overnight camping, fishing and day use activities. A timber harvest within the park boundaries was completed near the end of 2009 generated roughly \$18,000 for the County, while also improving growth and vigor of residual trees. In addition, the Land, Forestry & Parks Department seasonal employees maintained the park throughout the camping season and aided in park road improvements.

BASS HOLLOW PARK

All the trails are mowed and maintained. The grass was mowed, garbage hauled and bathrooms cleaned weekly. There are also 15 acres of wildlife openings that were mowed in the hollow.

Salvage logging of wind thrown trees from a 2008 storm event that devastated Bass Hollow was successfully completed before the end of 2009. The sale of damaged and downed trees generated roughly \$46,519.11 dollars in revenue, while also clearing hiking trails and speeding recovery of the property.

RIVERVIEW RECREATION AREA

This area was mowed and maintained for use by Boy and Girl Scouts and 4-H groups.

LEMONWEIR MILLS

This is a heavily used boat landing and requires much attention to keep up.

TWO RIVERS PUBLIC ACCESS

General maintenance was done here, keeping the area mowed and bathrooms cleaned. Many duck hunters use this area in the fall for access to the lower Lemonweir and the Wisconsin River bottoms.

OAK RIDGE

There are a total of 7.5 miles of cross-country ski and hiking trails here. The entire trail was brushed and mowed in November to provide hunters and hikers improved access.

SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

The Juneau County Trail System has 239.7 miles of Class 1 Trail. Collectively, the snowmobile clubs receive maintenance funding of \$59,925.00 annually from the State to open and maintain the trail network.

The trail system was used extensively throughout the winter in 2008/2009 as good snow conditions prevailed through February.

There is seven active snowmobile clubs in the Juneau County Snowmobile Council. They perform all the signing and grooming in the county voluntarily.

Over the past three years, the Department has sought to re-deck nineteen bridges along the Omaha Trail. We received approval to redo 8 bridges on the Omaha trail during 2009 for Phase 2 of the project.

Phase 1 07-08 included bridges 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, and 19

Phase 2 08-09 included bridges 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 13, 16, 18

Phase 3 09-10 included bridges 2, 5, 7, 8, and 12

OMAHA TRAIL

The Forestry and Parks Personnel maintained the Omaha Trail. Vendors sold passes in Elroy, Hustler and Camp Douglas for the trail. They were given 10% of the total sales for their commission. The total amount taken in 2009 for revenue was \$643.50.

HILLSBORO TRAIL

The Forestry and Parks Department secured a Snowmobile Bridge Grant equaling \$77,200.00 to replace a failing bridge on the Hillsboro State Trail. The Department maintains this trail under a memorandum of understanding with the State DNR. The new 80 foot long clear-span bridge was completed on time and under cost before snowfall opened the trail to snowmobiling in December.

Respectfully submitted:

Brian M. Loyd, Administrator

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